

Engaged in Civics

Nehemiah 2:1-6



“So I prayed to the God of heaven and answered the king, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor with you, send me to Judah and to the city where my ancestors are buried, so that I may rebuild it.”” - Nehemiah 2:4-5

Main Point: There is a great need for Christians to stand in the Civic arena and take action

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

Do you watch any home makeover shows on TV? If so, which one(s)? If you could have a team of professionals fix anything about your house, what would you want them to fix?

Have you ever taken on a daunting project? What did you do to prepare for it?

The idea of separating church and state has become so prevalent that we have forgotten as a church that we still have responsibilities in the civic arena. We are not called to be “hands off” in any area of our lives, and especially that of our governing bodies. For far too long Christians have taken a back seat in public affairs thinking it is out of our control. The time to take action is now if we want to turn things around in our government, schools, and country. Nehemiah was faced with a daunting project that required getting involved in governmental processes. Today we look at his example and how we can make an impact for God by getting engaged in Civics.

There is a process to shining the light in our Civic Responsibility:

1) **BE WILLING TO ACT IN THE RIGHT TIME** (vv. 1-2).

How did Nehemiah describe himself? How did the king describe him? Why was Nehemiah so deeply affected by the state of his homeland?

In Nehemiah chapter 1 we find out it is December when he learns of Jerusalem’s fate. Why was it crucial that Nehemiah wait 4 months to act? What could have happened if he did not choose the time and place well with the king, and how can we learn from his example?

Read **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**. In reference to these verses, where does the world stand on what time it is? Where should the Church and Christians stand, and are we doing a good job of reflecting that?

What “split second timing” decisions have you made in life which directed your path and future for years to come? How do you see God in that timing now that you look back? Read **Proverbs 16:9** and discuss.

2) **HAVE A REASON TO ACT** (v. 3)

Read v. 3 and also Nehemiah 1:1-3. What reason did Nehemiah have to act?

What does 1 Cor. 10:31 and Ecclesiastes 3:14 say about the work Nehemiah did? Discuss how these verses give us greater reason to act. How do these verses increase the rationale for taking action in our civic responsibilities today?

How can you live for the Glory of God in your civic responsibility? What can your group do to be active in efforts to support the civic process?

3) **BE PREPARED TO ACT** (vv. 4-6)

How did Nehemiah show he was prepared to act when the King asked?

What can we do as a church besides praying for our country and the people who run it? How will we be the ones to bring restoration to our nation?

Galatians 6:9-10 says “we must not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don’t give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, we must work for the good of all, especially for those who belong to the household of faith.” What is your action plan to take advantage of opportunities for change? What good do you see us reaping if we continue to do good in the area of civics?

Apply It:

Jesus said, “Give back to Ceasar what is Ceasar’s, and to God what is God’s.” Ask yourself now, what is God’s? How will you give God the honor he desires thru your civic responsibility?

Pray:

Ask the Lord to show you how you might step up in the area of civics to make a difference. Is your school board in need? School improvement council? Local government? Seek God’s direction in finding the right place to serve so your light will shine!

Coming up at VillageChurch:

The BROlympics: 6-8th Grade boys. Saturday Oct. 14th 9-12pm in the Student Center.

CPR and First Aid Training: Saturday Oct. 14th in the worship center. 9a-1p.

Discovery Class: October 22nd. Email info@blythewoodvillage.com to RSVP.

Lake Scare-O-Lina: October 22nd. Sign up in the lobby to help!